

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE CONTROLLER KATHLEEN CONNELL SPONSORS BUDGET REFORM LEGISLATION

Senators Jim Brulte And Richard Polanco Co-Author Bill

Sacramento, January 17, 2002 – State Controller Kathleen Connell today announced she is sponsoring a budget reform bill designed to prevent many of the State's current budget problems from occurring in the future. The bill to implement **Zero-Based Budgeting** is co-authored by Senator Jim Brulte, (R) Cucamonga and Senator Richard Polanco, (D) Los Angeles.

"Zero-based budgeting puts new discipline into our budgeting," said Controller Connell. "It helps ensure we budget smart, cutting waste and inefficiency and focusing resources where they're needed most can make the biggest difference."

Zero-Based Budgeting would require each state entity to start with zero dollars in each budget session and justify every expense, leading to greater accountability. The zero-based budget system is in use in many other states, local governments, and in the private sector. To implement this system, the bill needs approval from the legislature and a signature from the Governor.

"By examining each item of the budget each year, we will be able to bring enormous savings to the taxpayers," said Senator Polanco. "It also creates direct accountability for every penny we spend."

"California faces a \$12 billion deficit because of runaway spending," said Senator Brulte. "Zero-based budgeting is one way to force state government to live within its means by requiring agencies to justify their expenditures yearly."

The zero-based budget bill, if approved by lawmakers, would be in use for the fiscal year 2003-2004.

"Zero-based budgeting can help us find the resources we need to provide our children with the best education possible, to keep criminals behind bars and police officers on the street, to revitalize our public roads and bridges that are the foundation for economic growth and job creation," said Connell.

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